(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No application for grant of freedom fighter's pension from Punjab is pending with the Ministry for disposal at present. However, a non-official Committee has been set up to review those cases which were rejected earlier for the inability of applicants to produce required evidence on account of their suffering being in areas now forming part of Pakistan.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pollution Control

259. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1978 have been sufficiently efficacious in dealing with the problem of pollution ; and

(b) if not, what fresh steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON) : (a) and (b) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (amended in 1978) and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 were not found to be sufficiently efficacious in dealing with problems of pollution. As such, these Acts have been recently strengthened by the passage of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1988 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1987 thereby giving more powers to the Pollution Control Boards to deal with the pollution problems. A comprehensive umbrella legislation *viz.* the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has also been enacted which confers wide powers on the Central Government to protect the environment.

Chief Justices Committee on Problem of Arrears in Courts

260. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee of three Chief Justices constituted this year to examine the problems of arrears in courts has since met ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the main recommendations made by the Committee to cut down the backlog of cases in the judicial courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) The Committee has met several times. It has not finalised its Report.

Meeting of Chief Electoral Officers at Tirupati

261. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commission has recently organised a meeting of Chief Electoral Officers at Tirupati; and

(b) if so, what were the main recommendations made thereat?